

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FMC-01 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 AID-05 OMB-01 /047 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9276

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EWWT, IN, PK

SUBJECT: INDO-PAK SHIPPING TALKS

1. MARCH 19 EDITION SEMI-OFFICIAL PAKISTAN TIMES
REPORTS TALKS TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL DETAILS FOR RESUMPTION
OF SHIPPING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAD BEEN DELAYED
FOR "TECHNICAL" REASONS BUT WOULD TAKE PLACE "SOON."
MARCH 20 EDITION PAKISTAN TIMES REPORTS THAT EXPERTS
OF NATIONAL SHIPPING CORPORATION OF PAKISTAN HAVE PROPOSED
MARCH 25 AS DATE FOR SUCH TALKS.

2. EMBOFF MENTIONED ABOVE TWO NEWS ARTICLES TO ZAFAR HILALY,
MFA DIRECTOR FOR INDIAN AFFAIRS, AND INQUIRED IF TALKS HAD REALLY
BEEN DELAYED FOR "TECHNICAL" REASONS OR IF SOMETHING MORE
SERIOUS WAS INVOLVED. HILALY REPLIED THAT IT REALLY WAS
A TECHNICAL MATTER AND TALKS SHOULD TAKE PLACE VERY SOON,
HOPEFULLY ON MARCH 25 AS PROPOSED BY THE PAKS. HE
STATED THAT ORIGINALLY THE GOP HAD SUGGESTED MARCH 4 AS
DATE FOR THE TALKS BUT THE INDIANS SUGGESTED MARCH 18 AS
SEVERAL OF THEIR SHIPPING EXPERTS WERE OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
MARCH 18 WAS ACCEPTED BY THE GOP BUT SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES

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OF THE NATIONAL SHIPPING CORPORATION OF PAKISTAN, WHO WERE

TO BE MEMBERS OF PAK DELEGATION, FAILED TO APPLY FOR THEIR
INDIAN VISAS UNTIL THE DAY PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE.
THUS, THERE SIMPLY WAS NOT TIME ENOUGH FOR THE INDIAN
INTEREST SECTION OF THE SWISS EMBASSY TO ISSUE THEIR VISAS
AND SO THEIR DEPARTURE HAD TO BE POSTPONED.
BYROADE

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